

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Replace all previous versions of the claims with the version set forth below.

1-15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) An oil module for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a carrier element that can be attached to an engine block of the internal combustion engine via a flange and carries at least one oil filter and an oil cooler;

the oil module being provided with at least one channel for guiding oil and at least one channel for guiding water, one of the channels being an oil cooler bypass channel connecting an oil inlet of the oil cooler to an oil outlet of the oil cooler,

an oil cooler base plate forming one part of the oil cooler and occluding the oil cooler on the carrier side,

wherein at least a main part of the oil cooler bypass channel extends through the oil cooler base plate and is sealed towards at least one of an outside environment on the oil cooler side by the remaining oil cooler and on the carrier element side by the carrier element.

17. (Previously Presented) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein the oil cooler bypass channel is formed in the oil cooler base plate by at least one slit extending over an entire thickness of the oil cooler base plate.

18. (Withdrawn) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein the oil cooler bypass channel in the oil cooler base plate is formed by at least one depression formed in the oil cooler base plate on one of the carrier element side and the oil cooler side.

19. (Withdrawn) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein the oil cooler bypass channel extends over its entire length in the oil cooler base plate.

20. (Previously Presented) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein one part of the oil cooler bypass channel lying in the oil cooler base plate forms a middle section of the oil cooler bypass channel and two shorter end sections of the oil cooler bypass channel each extend through the carrier element.

21. (Withdrawn) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein one part of the oil cooler bypass channel lying in the oil cooler base plate forms two end sections of the oil cooler bypass channel and a shorter middle section of the oil cooler bypass channel extends through the carrier element.

22. (Previously Presented) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein the oil cooler bypass channel has a cross section comprising a throttle effect.

23. (Previously Presented) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein the oil cooler bypass channel has, in its course, at least one cross-sectional narrowing providing a throttling effect.

24. (Withdrawn) An oil module according to claim 23, wherein the cross-sectional narrowing is formed by at least one nose protruding into the oil cooler bypass channel.

25. (Previously Presented) An oil module according to claim 23, wherein the cross-sectional narrowing is formed by at least one overlapping area between one end of the oil cooler bypass channel and a channel area on the carrier element side being connected with one of the oil inlet and oil outlet of the oil cooler.

26. (Previously Presented) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein the oil cooler base plate is a stamping of metal.

27. (Previously Presented) An oil module according to claim 26, wherein the oil cooler base plate is fabricated from aluminum.

28. (Previously Presented) An oil module according to claim 26, wherein the oil cooler base plate is manufactured by means of a stamping tool with an exchangeable tool insert in an area of the oil cooler bypass channel.

29. (Withdrawn) An oil module according to claim 16, wherein a valve is arranged in the course of the oil cooler bypass channel which, depending on a pressure difference between the oil inlet and the oil outlet of the oil cooler, produces a modifiable passage cross section, with the passage cross section being smaller at a lower differential pressure and the passage cross section being larger at a higher differential pressure.

30. (Withdrawn) An oil module according to claim 29, wherein the valve is formed by a leaf spring which is arranged in the oil cooler bypass channel pointing into a direction of flow of the oil, with the leaf spring, in a non-loaded or lightly loaded differential pressure condition, obliquely extending through the oil cooler bypass channel and, in a more strongly loaded differential pressure condition, being automatically adjustable from its obliquely extending position through the oil cooler bypass channel into a position increasingly extending in parallel direction to the oil cooler bypass channel, producing an increasing cross section.

31. (Withdrawn) An oil module according to claim 29, wherein the leaf spring comprises a bimetal strip, by which the leaf spring in its position in the oil cooler bypass channel is automatically adjustable depending on a temperature of the oil flowing through the bypass channel, with an increasing temperature resulting in an adjustment of the leaf spring effecting a reduction of the passage cross section.

32. (Previously Presented) An oil module for an internal combustion engine comprising:

at least one channel formed in the oil module for guiding oil and at least one channel formed in the oil module for guiding water, one of the channels being an oil cooler bypass channel connecting an oil inlet of the oil cooler to an oil outlet of the oil cooler,

a carrier element having a flange for attaching to an engine block of the internal combustion engine and being configured to carry at least one oil filter and an oil cooler, and

an oil cooler base plate forming one part of the oil cooler and occluding the oil cooler on the carrier side, with at least a main part of the oil cooler bypass channel extending through the oil cooler base plate, the main part of the oil cooler bypass channel being sealed towards at least one of an outside environment on the oil cooler side by the remaining oil cooler and an outside environment on the carrier element side by the carrier element.

33. (Previously Presented) An oil module for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a carrier element having a flange for attaching to an engine block of the internal combustion engine and carrying at least one oil filter and an oil cooler;

the oil module being provided with at least one channel extending through the carrier element for guiding oil and at least one channel extending through the carrier element for guiding water, one of the channels being an oil cooler bypass channel connecting an oil inlet of the oil cooler to an oil outlet of the oil cooler,

an oil cooler base plate forming one part of the oil cooler and occluding the oil cooler on the carrier side,

at least a main part of the oil cooler bypass channel extending through the oil cooler base plate and being sealed from an outside environment on at least one of the oil cooler side by the remaining oil cooler and on the carrier element side by the carrier element.